



**St. Catherine's
British School**
Excellence and Happiness

Governors' Annual Report 2018-2019





Headmaster's Introduction



The academic year 2018 – 2019 proved once again to be an exciting, action-packed, but at times frustrating, year at St Catherine's British School. The vast range of extra-curricular and philanthropic activities undertaken by the students and the whole school community were once again matched by some outstanding academic achievements from our IB graduates - what an array of world-class institutions they are destined to attend: from Oxford and Cambridge to Imperial and Durham in the UK, from Chicago and NYU to UPenn and Georgia Tech in the US, from McGill to Toronto in Canada and from Bocconi to Valencia in Europe – it is evident that our students realise their stratospheric aspirations of attending the very best universities across the globe.

Of course we had hoped to be closing the year with the much-anticipated move into the new Upper School building across the road in Kifissia. However, fascination in the revelatory archaeological finds uncovered was tempered by the inevitable delays in building progress and even more unfortunately in the consequent escalating financial costs. Kifissia is well-known as a thriving country suburb of Roman-era of Athens – birthplace to the renowned dramatist Menander and the cooler villa retreat of Herodes Atticus. However, the excavation of more distant prehistoric Bronze Age and New Stone Age settlements dating back over 6000 years has caused something of a stir in the archaeological world even beyond Greece. I only hope that at some point in the future we can display the full story in graphic detail for the benefit not only for our students but the whole community!

Nevertheless, we have continued on our goal of stretching our educational horizons well into the future by becoming involved in the Microsoft Flagship School programme and through the work of the Development Office. The former has seen us become involved in looking at incorporating the very best technology into advancing learning across the whole school not just into the new building whilst the Development Office team have run a number of very successful community events.

The impetus of the passion and work of the Eco-Councils has also taken on a new dimension and drive over the last year with the global media impact of Greta Thunberg. Of course, our students have long campaigned for a more-environmental approach to local, national and international global issues but there is no doubt that increased exposure is driving us all to adopt new lifestyles and business practices. My declared aim to eliminate all plastic water bottles from the school by September 2020 is one that I know the students will not allow me to forget! The Go Green poster competition brought a "forest" of creative and colourful entries which have helped highlight the issues and focus all our minds.

I would also like to repeat my thanks to the governors who work so selflessly throughout the year and this is especially appreciated given their own heavy professional and business interests. They deserve the gratitude not only of myself as Headmaster but the whole school community for enabling us to continue to move the school forward on our everlasting journey of "Excellence and Happiness".

Stuart Smith
Headmaster
St Catherine's British School

Content

Page 5	Our Vision
Page 6	Letter from the Chairman
Page 7	Meet our Board of Governors
Page 8	Our International Community
Page 9	Academic Achievements
Page 10	Class of 2019
Page 11	Graduate Destinations and Courses
Page 12	Our Story so Far
Page 14	Extra-Curricular
Page 15	Student Responsibilities
Page 16	Learning through Giving
Page 17	PTSA and "St Cats Acts"
Page 18	Staff News
Page 19	School Improvements
Page 20	Future Plans
Page 22	Alumni News





Our Vision

St. Catherine's endeavours to foster a love of learning through a well taught, appropriately challenging, clearly defined, broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to fully develop pupils' intellectual, social, physical and creative potential, in anticipation that they will develop into sensitive, informed, decisive and capable global citizens of the future.

Character building and interpersonal skills are developed through a range of relevant educational experiences and extra-curricular activities. As a leading exponent of global citizenship, St. Catherine's pupils are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills, conflict resolution skills, negotiation strategies and an understanding of multicultural, multi-faith, and multi-racial concepts within the context of cultural pluralism. Pupils are expected to seek solutions to environmental and ecological problems and actively demonstrate responsibilities and sound practices for good global, European and national citizenship, as well as having clear expectations of the relevance and benefits of personal, social and health strategies.

“ In both the Lower and the Upper School pupils attitudes, enjoyment, collaborative skills and self-organisation contribute to their achievement ”

ISI report 2016



Letter from the Chairman



Dear Friends of St Catherine's British School

As always I am delighted to introduce the Governors' Annual Report for 2018 - 2019. As the Headmaster mentions in his introduction, this year has been a most successful one in terms of ongoing student achievement albeit somewhat frustrating with the delay on the development project. The delays caused by the archaeology in the completion of Phase One – the Upper School - as well as the increased costs are proving extremely challenging for the Board of Governors as well as for the whole school community. However, it is particularly pleasing that the staff of the school continue to maintain the high standards in the classroom and that our students achieve at the highest levels and move on to some of the very best universities in the world.

We continue to move forward with Phase Two of the vision – the redevelopment of the Wella property as a multi-sports complex – as well as developing our vision for a new Lower School. Initially we will be undertaking some reconfiguration of the current site in order to create more outside space and provide some specialist facilities for the use of the younger pupils only. However, the aim is to build a brand new learning environment for the Lower School in the not-too-distant future. We do hope that the proximity of the opening of the new Upper School will provide a boost to our Capital Campaign – there is no doubt that our longer term ambition for a complete brand new school is dependent on the financial support of our community over the next twelve months. Whilst the longer term aim is to create a culture of giving within our community in order to support ongoing future developments and together with the sustainability of our bursary provision, the immediate priority has to be the delivery of high quality learning areas for ALL our pupils, from the youngest to the oldest. Therefore, I would encourage everyone within our community to support our campaign in any way they can.

Finally, I would like to thank the Headmaster, his Executive Leadership Team and all the staff for their conscientious endeavour in maintaining St Catherine's British School at the forefront of British education not just in Greece but across Europe. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank one of our governors, Eugenie Coumantaros, who has recently come to the end of her term of office.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and seeing "Excellence and Happiness" in operation at St Catherine's British School.

With all best wishes from the Board of Governors,

Stavros P. Taki
Chairman
Board of Governors
St Catherine's British School



The Board of Governors

St Catherine's is led by an Executive Leadership Team consisting of the Headmaster, the Deputy Head/Head of Upper School, the Head of Lower School, the Business Director and the Development Director. It is overseen by the Board of Governors, which is responsible for upholding the aims and objectives of the School, setting the strategic direction and ensuring that the School has the required resources and financing to operate effectively. The Board of Governors also acts as advocates for, and representatives of, our mission, values, vision and needs.



Mr Stavros Taki
Chairman of Governing Body
Committees: Finance/Resources, Curriculum/Standards, Human Resources and Bursary Committee
Specialist Links: EYFS and Performance/ Expressive Arts



Mr Maurice Dheere
Vice Chairman
Committees: Finance/Resources, Human Resources and Bursary Committee
Specialist Links: KS2 and Social Sciences



Dr Kyriacos Sabatakakis
Honorary Treasurer
Committees: Finance/Resources (Chair), Human Resources and Bursary Committee
Specialist Links: IB and Mathematics



Ms Athanasia (Sia) Braimi
Committees: Finance/Resources and Development Support
Special Links: TOK, CAS, Extended Essay and Careers/Guidance



Ms Sarah Kinney Contomichalos
Committee: Curriculum/Standards (Chair, until November 2019)
Specialist Links: Careers/Guidance



Ms Nathalie Coulon Contomichalos
Committee: Finance/Resources
Specialist Links: IB Curriculum and Languages



Dr Christos Markou
Committee: Curriculum/Standards (Chair, from December 2019)
Specialist Links: KS4, Science and Computer Science



Ms Loukia Nicola-Tsigos
Committees: Human Resources (Chair), Curriculum/Standards and Development Support (Chair)
Specialist Links: Upper School and English



Mr Roger Outwin-Flinders
Committee: Curriculum/Standards and Designated Governor for Child Protection
Specialist Links: Lower School, KS1 and Humanities



Mr George Paleokrassas
Health & Safety (Chair), Finance/Resources and Designated Governor for GDPR
Specialist Links: KS2 and Learning Support/ PSHCE



Mr Roger Peel
Committee: Curriculum/Standards
Specialist Links: KS3 and PE/Sport



Dr Platon Tinios
Committee: Curriculum/Standards
Specialist Links: KS3 and Social Sciences



A British International School

St Catherine's is proud to welcome pupils from both the expatriate and local communities and is the first choice for many families who want their children to gain a British education within an international context.

Where our students come from:

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Cambodia
Canada
China
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan

Jordan
Korea
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Romania
Russia

Slovakia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
US Virgin Islands
Venezuela





Academic Achievements

IB Diploma Results 2019	St Catherine's May 2019	St Catherine's Cumulative 2004-2019	IBO World 2018
Overall Diploma Average	35	35.1	29.8
Overall Diploma Pass %	94%	96%	78%
Number of Diploma Candidates	84	690	65,974
% Candidates 40 and above points	23%	24%	10%
% Candidates 29 and below points	15%	15%	33%

GCSE Results 2019

Year	Number of Candidates	%A*-A & 7-9	%B-C & 4-6	%D-G & 1-3
2017	86	56%	37%	8%
2018	68	62%	30%	8%
2019	66	58%	34%	7%





“

“I will always be grateful to the St Catherine’s community for the support all these years and hope to make you proud as an Alumni.”

“

“The years my family and I have had at St. Catherine’s were truly memorable!”

“

“The support St. Catherine’s has given me in the last 13 years has been out of this world!”

“

“I will always cherish these past two years here in St Catherine’s. You all have taught me many things, but most importantly, you all have been very kind, helpful and especially patient!”

“

“I am very grateful for all of the support the school provided me with during my time in St Catherine’s.”

“

“I would like to thank the staff for their unmatched willingness to teach and ensure a prosperous future for all of their students.”

“

“I’m so grateful for the opportunities St Catherine’s has offered me.”

“

“Thank you for your continuous support throughout all my years at St Catherine’s”

2019 Graduates

Class of 2019



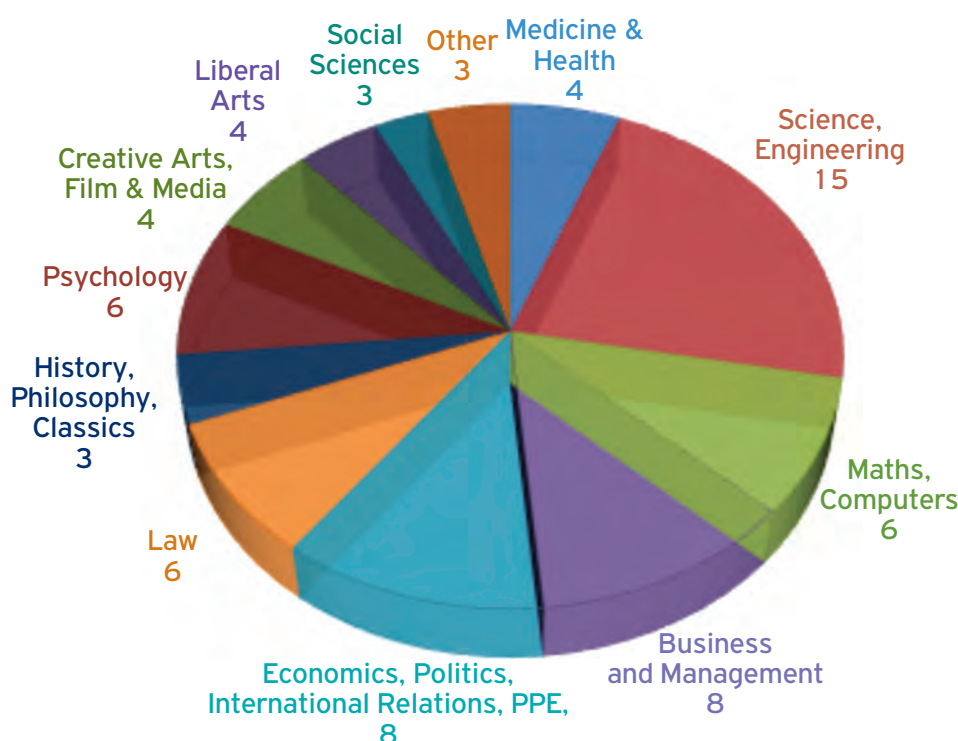


Graduate Destinations 2019

We currently have alumni studying at universities and colleges in 12 countries throughout the world

American College of Greece
American University (USA)
Bocconi University (Italy)
Boston College (USA)
Boston University (USA)
Bournemouth University
Bristol University
Cambridge University
City University
Coventry University
Durham University
Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne (Switzerland)
Edinburgh University
Essex University
Georgia Tech University (USA)
Imperial College, University of London
King's College, University of London
Lancaster University
Leeds University
Leicester University
Leiden University (The Netherlands)
Lindenwood University (USA)
McGill University (Canada)

New York University (USA)
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford University
Queen Mary, University of London
Royal Holloway, University of London
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Surrey University
The London School of Economics and Political Science
University of Bath
University of British Columbia (Canada)
University of Chicago (USA)
University College London
University of Exeter
University of Kent
University of Maryland, College Park (USA)
University of Pennsylvania (USA)
University of Plymouth
University of the Arts, London
University of Toronto (Canada)
Valencia University (Spain)
Warwick University





Our story so far...

In the autumn of 1956, Sir Charles Peake, the British Ambassador to Greece and his wife, Lady Catherine Peake, decided that they would like to set up a school in the grounds of the British Embassy and in early 1957 the new school began taking its first pupils. For over 60 years we have been proud to be one of the best schools in Greece, if not Europe, and we look forward to continuing this for many years to come!



The School receives accreditation from the International Baccalaureate Organisation and starts teaching the IB Diploma in September



2002

1957

School opens at number 2 Loukianou in the grounds of the Residence for the British Ambassador, Sir Charles Peake and his wife Lady Catherine Peake, after whom the school is named



1962

School moves to former Japanese Embassy in Psychico



1971

St Catherine's starts to construct current buildings in Lykovrissi and moves in during 1973



2000

Upper School opens with its first ever cohort of Year 9 and 10 students and unveils a new teaching block including the multipurpose - hall opened by Education Minister Petros Efthymiou





St Catherine's IB students graduate with the highest average Diploma score (37.5 points) seen to date in Greece. Two students become our first Oxbridge entrants

The School hosts two major COBIS (Council of British International Schools) events: an international teaching and learning conference and the COBIS Games, held in the Olympic Stadium

Our New Upper School moves into its final stages of construction



2009

2015

2019

2004

2010

2017



During the Athens Olympic Games the School acts as a hospitality centre for the GB team's families. The School is honoured to welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair and HRH Princess Anne



Miss Christine Warren Tutte, a former long-serving Headmistress, returns to open a new building named in her honour



We celebrate 60 years of St. Catherine's with a fabulous party! 1956-2016



Extra-Curricular

At St Catherine's we recognise the critical importance of a broad and balanced life. We encourage students to participate in a wide range of activities outside the classroom that both complement academic study and provide a wealth of additional skills, experience and enjoyment.

The academic year of 2018/19 has seen a vast range of activity throughout the school. Amongst many things, the Lower School has enjoyed Greek dancing, discovering the French Culture, understanding the beauty of architecture and having their very own inhouse animal club (S.T.A.I.N). This year the Lower and Upper school participated in the World School Games in Dubai and were delighted to bring home Bronze, Silver and Gold medals, with a fantastic achievement from the Upper School winning the overall silver medal! Once again our students continued to prove their leading debating skills and proudly represented St Catherine's at national tournaments. Many students also participated in the challenging but exciting Duke of Edinburgh International Award, with 90 students working towards the completion of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

St Catherine's students continued to show their creativity and wonderful performance abilities through musical concerts, talent shows and theatre performances which included brilliant productions of 'Our Day Out' and 'Annie'.





Student Responsibilities

Throughout their time at St Catherine's students have the opportunity to experience roles of responsibility.

In the Lower School the Head Girls and Boys have the responsibility of giving speeches in assemblies, showing students and parents around the School, as well as peer related tasks.

The Eco-Council from Key Stages 1 and 2 focus on how they can make the school and their local environment more eco-friendly. This year the Eco-Council continued to make compost from all the fruit and vegetable waste collected from each school year group and the staffroom. They also created a small butterfly garden having researched the most suitable plants required, and we are happy to say the first butterflies have now been sighted! Finally, the members also encouraged their classmates to collect plastic bottle caps, which are taken to the local council where they are recycled in support of providing wheelchairs for the disabled.

The Lower School Council has representatives in Key Stage 1 and 2. Throughout 2018/19 they organised deeds of kindness and raised money to help those in need in Greece which included collecting clothes and shoes for those in refugee camps and in need in the local community. In the Upper School the Key Stage 3 Council helped with social events, charities and the important transition from Lower to Upper School.

We also have the Senate which focuses on student affairs, to improve the school community, fundraises for good causes, and acts as a liaison between school leaders, teachers and the student body. It is made up of students from Years 10 -13. This year the Senate focused on fundraising for Holding Hands with Refugees; and the annual Christmas shoe-box appeal which was a resounding success collecting 524 boxes filled with gifts for the children at the Malakasa refugee camp.

Well done everyone!



Learning through Giving

At St Catherine's we believe in the importance of philanthropy and helping others through the act of giving and supporting those in need. Throughout their years at St Catherine's, students have the opportunity to become involved in raising money for good causes, donating gifts and learning more about different charitable needs.

In 2018/19 the students of St Catherine's raised over €28,500 as well as donating food, clothes, games and toiletries. Organisations that benefitted included local and international charities such as: Anima; Boroume; Cancer Research; Dimos Lykovrissi; Doctors Without Borders; Eliza; Estia Girls; European Respiratory; Greek Strays'; Helping Hands; Holding Hands with Refugee Children; Home Project; Kethis; Make a Wish; Mazi gia to Paidi; Nea-Erythrea Fire Department; NGO Lesvos; Nine Lives; Project Elea; Serres Horse Riding; Tositsa Foundation; UNHCR; Wallacea and Water Aid.

A fantastic effort, Well Done!



PTSA and “St Cats ACTS”

2018/2019 marked another amazing year for the St. Catherine's PTSA, with the biggest parent involvement in recent years, even including some wonderful dads!

The year kicked off with a bang (literally) with our completely sold-out, Coco-inspired Halloween Event. Both children and adults dressed up in their scariest gear and enjoyed great food, spooky games, trick-or-treating and of course a spectacular firework show. The School was transformed and filled with colour and scary decorations, most of which were created by the students themselves during our popular PTSA-led workshops with EYFS and Lower School classes.

Our Christmas event was also a huge success, as for the first time, we teamed up with the School's choirs and orchestras to create a wonderful and relaxing afternoon of carol singing, Christmas shopping and drinking of mulled wine.

In the new year, Quiz Night brought parents and teachers together for a laughter-filled evening of trivia, wine and food, whilst our Cultural Tours calendar was busy with private tours of the Yannis Moralis Exhibition by the Director of the Benaki Museum, the Xoblia Frills & Ornaments Exhibition by the Curator Iris Kritikou, as well as a trip to the Megaron to watch the biggest choral ensemble from England - Really Big Chorus performed Haydn's Creation together with Musica and the Philharmonic.

“St. Cats ACTS” continued their great work with “Cook for Good”, distributing a total of 1.000 packages of food to people in need, followed by “Help Us Help Nature”, helping the environment as part of Let's Do It Greece.

2019 saw the creation of the School's **Go Green** group, a new initiative led by parents, whose mission is to reduce the school's ecological impact and build an environmentally responsible community. Their first project was the installation of brand new bottle-filling water fountains around the School.

We thank all volunteers who came forward to offer their support and made these events such a success. We hope to encourage more of you to get involved and contribute to the vibrant community spirit within the school.





Staff News

The staff of St Catherine's are the driving force in maintaining a caring academic environment and a sense of community.

We are proud of our highly qualified academic staff, continually investing in Professional Development through courses and workshops, enhancing our services to students and always taking into consideration students with individual educational needs.

As with any school we have a vibrant staff community with new people starting, some moving on and many enjoying long careers with St Catherine's.

This year we wanted to give a very special mention to highlight eight staff members who joined St Catherine's over 25 years ago

Julie Grantham (31 years), Angela Gargan (29 years), Vangi Burbidge (29 years), Yvonne Mengos (26 years), Gerrie Giakoumi-Westerink (25 years), Marietta Kandilaki (25 years), Philippa Pyett (25 years) and James Soumilas (25 years)

Plus three staff members who have been with us for over 20 years

Fionnuala Cleary (24 years), Amanda Martopoulou-Smith (22 years) and Marieni Demetriadou (20 years)

Furthermore, eight members of staff are celebrating 15 years with St Catherine's and nine celebrating 10 years.

Farewell

In 2018/19 we bid a fond farewell to Ashley Eaton, Alice James, Ben Kargbo and Alice Marlow

We are delighted to welcome new staff into the St Catherine's family (September 2018 & 2019):

Whole School

Matthew Slimming (PE Teacher)

Lower School

David Chatwin (Teacher)

Afroditi Nikolopoulou (Learning Support)

Katie Warren (Teacher)

Upper School

Catherine Assimakopoulos (Learning Support)

Doris Fink (Science Teacher)

Tom Howlett (English Teacher)

Elena Kalemaki (Spanish Teacher)

Konstantina Kokorikou (Maths Teacher)

Rachel Roberts (Economics Teacher)

Theofanis Stamoulis (Learning Support)

Evgenia Tasiopoulou (Maths Teacher)

Richard Venn (Business Teacher)

Kate York Ryder (English Teacher)

Liam York Ryder (Geography Teacher)

Administration

Zoe Halikiopoulos (Development Assistant)

Alexia Sandis (Admissions Registrar)



*Vangi Burbidge, James Soumilas, Yvonne Mengos, Philippa Pyett
Angela Gargan, Gerrie Giakoumi-Westerink, Julie Grantham, Marietta Kandilaki*



School Improvements

As a constantly evolving and busy school we are always conscious of the need to improve and review our facilities and in 2018/19 we invested €228,000 in these developments. Key areas of spending within the School focused on new computers, smartboards, AC units, bathroom refurbishment, painting of the Lower School as well as Science and IA Equipment for the Upper School. Water fountains were also installed with the support from the PTSA on our mission to become a plastic free school!

These are highlights of some of the improvements that were made and the School pledges to continue to review facilities on our current site alongside preparation for our new building.





Together We Can Reach our Goals

For over 60 years St Catherine's has been at the forefront of education in Athens. Undoubtedly our staff are our most valuable asset, bringing their skills, knowledge and vitality to ensure that our children are taught in the best possible way. Whilst we pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching staff, we acknowledge that some of our facilities do not reflect our leading school status. We have therefore embarked on an ambitious multi-phased 10 year Development Plan to transform these facilities.

Phase One - The New Upper School Renovations of the old textile factory began in June 2018 and continued throughout 2018/19. Rare archaeological finds dating back to the Neolithic era, resulted in the construction work taking a little longer than anticipated but the building and its facilities will now be open for some use in the academic year of 2019/20, with the whole Upper School moving in fully in September 2020. The facilities will include a 400 seat Theatre, 222m² Library, Music Suite and Recording Studio, nine dedicated Science Labs, three ICT Suites, a Fab Lab and much more! The next exciting chapter in the story of St Catherine's is about to begin!

Redeveloping the Lower School As the Upper School students move over to the new building the Lower School will be reconfigured to maximise the new space available. As well as dedicated spaces for science and art, there will also be more eco-friendly outside spaces to enhance both learning and playing ready for when the pupils return in September 2020.

Phase Two – The Sports Complex Plans are now in their final stages to convert the former Wella building which is next to the new Upper School, into a multi-faceted sports centre for the whole school community to use. It will feature an indoor swimming pool, basketball, badminton and volleyball courts plus a gymnasium, climbing wall and 5-a-side football pitch.

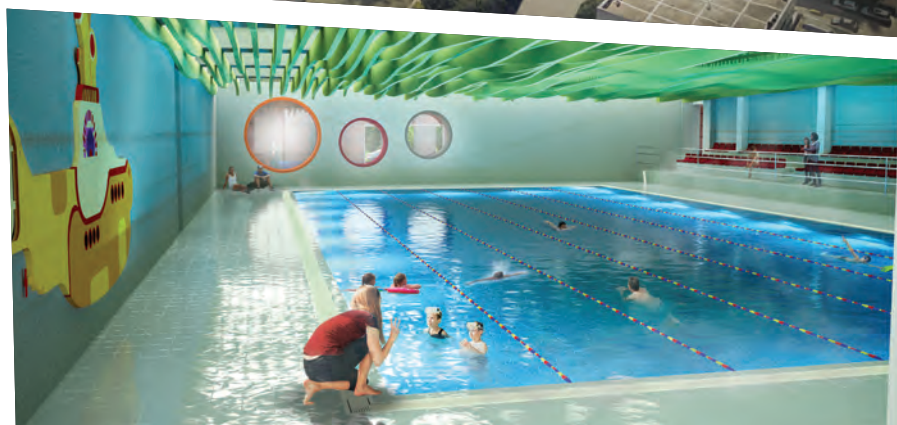
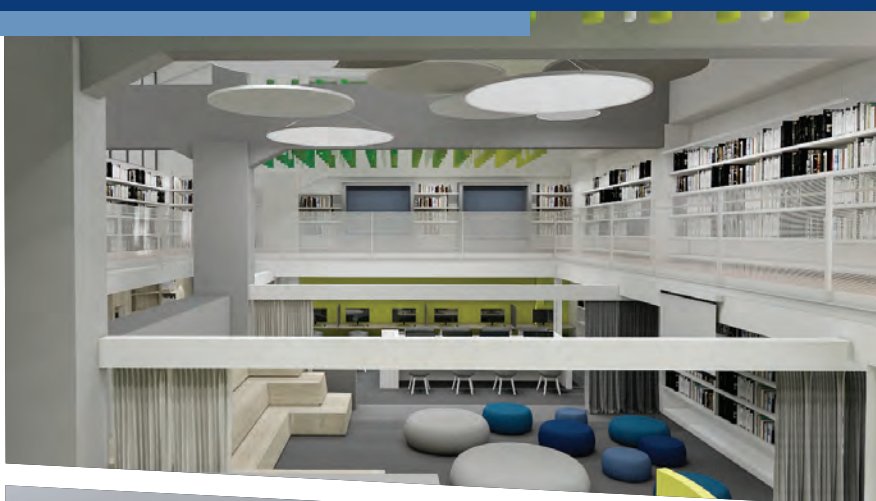
Phase Three – The New Lower School The final phase will see a whole new Lower School built and more details will be released as the project progresses.

Our School, Our Future

To achieve our ambitious 10 year Development Plan the school has asked the St Catherine's community to come together to help support this vision. Income from fees covers the school's everyday running costs, therefore, for any major projects to happen we rely on additional income including philanthropic gifts. Thank you to all those parents who have already given their generous support and helped to make a fundamental difference. There are a number of ways you can support the school:

- **Support a Space** in our new Upper School or our Sports Complex to help us be the best we can be in all areas of the school
- **Take a Seat** in our beautiful whole school Theatre. Name a seat for yourself or as a gift and an engraved plaque will be affixed to the seat of your choice.
- **Make Your Mark** by making a donation of any size to support a particular area of learning
- Support our **Green it!** campaign to make St Catherine's an eco-friendly space

Thank you for your support so far – we hope you feel inspired by what is ahead!





St Catherine's Alumni Association (SCAA)

15 years of IB, 15 years of graduates!

Our alumni networking platform continues to grow with the registration of alumni and staff from across decades of our school's history. Our platform, stcatherinesalumni.com, gives our alumni exclusive opportunity to keep up with SCAA and school news, link up with fellow graduates, be informed about the latest professional opportunities, promote their work and projects, and of course stay up to date with the latest events.

We introduced a new initiative this year with the SCAA Committee presenting to Year 11 students on the life after IB, which resulted in a fruitful Q&A session where the students were able to gain well-rounded feedback from recent graduates.

Last year we inaugurated the post of Alumni Ambassador; a post assigned to Year 12 students, dedicated to informing current students on alumni activities and bridging the gap between students and alumni leading on the e-mentoring programme.

From the memorable SCAA reunion in Athens to smaller events in Greece and the UK and the 2019 Annual Reunion at St Cats IB Graduation, this year was not short on social events. In the future, we look forward to hosting alumni events in more cities and countries, so watch this space!

IB2 students Konstantinos Kavallieros and Artemis Deligianni were awarded the 2019 Alumni Award for their exceptional contribution to school life and beyond - Well done! Our involvement with APS (Alumni Private Schools) Sports Association carried on strong, seeing the SCAA basketball team into the finals.

We love to welcome alumni students and parents back through the gates of St. Catherine's and we are thrilled there will be a space for our alumni to meet and socialise in the new Upper School.

Thank you to everyone involved for their support.

St. Catherine's Alumni Committee



Class of 2004



**St. Catherine's
British School**
Excellence and Happiness

Charity: 313909